

## NEWS.

MR. JOHN S. WRIGHT has been appointed lecturer in botany at the Indiana Medical College, a department of the Indianapolis University.

THE PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT of an international botanical station at Palermo, Italy, under the direction of Professor Borzi, is announced by *Nature*.

AN ADDRESS upon "Grasses" by Professor F. Lamson-Scribner, delivered before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, has been published by the society for distribution.

DR. A. P. ANDERSON is spending the present year at the Missouri Botanical Garden, where he finds suitable facilities for the further prosecution of his researches in connection with the resin ducts of conifers.

MR. M. A. LAWSON, botanist and director of cinchona plantations to the Madras government, died at Madras February 14th last. From 1868 to 1882 he was Sherardian Professor of Botany in the University of Oxford.

MR. WALTER T. SWINGLE returned in October to resume his duties in the United States Department of Agriculture after a year spent abroad. He studied chiefly in the laboratories of Bonn and the Biological Station at Naples.

ATTENTION is called by the biographer to an inaccuracy in the sketch of the late Professor Frentiss which appeared in this journal for May last. He was born May 22, 1836, in Cazenovia, Madison county, N. Y., not in Oneida county, as stated in the sketch.

DR. HERBERT M. RICHARDS, who has been studying in Professor Pfeffer's laboratory at Leipzig during the last year, having held a traveling scholarship from Harvard University, returned to this country in August, and is now installed as lecturer in botany at Barnard College, New York city.

NUMBERS 11 AND 12 of Lloyd's *Photogravures of American Fungi*<sup>1</sup> have recently been distributed. They represent respectively *Lepiota Morgani* Peck and *Sparassis Herbstii* Peck, two interesting species. The first was photographed as it grew in the field, and makes an unusually attractive and characteristic picture.

DURING A CYCLONE in the early part of October the roof of the main building of the Agricultural College at Lake City, Florida, was partly blown

<sup>1</sup>For notices of previous issues of this series see this journal 20: 330, 556; and 22: 75.

away and the interior deluged with water. The valuable private library of Professor P. H. Rolfs, especially rich in works on fungi and citrous fruits, suffered severely. The herbarium in an adjoining part of the building was but little damaged.

MR. GEORGE J. BURCH, of Oxford, England, has been experimenting upon plants with Röntgen photography. He finds that flower-buds and seed-vessels are especially favorable objects. He believes that if the photograph could be made upon a magnified scale the outline of every cell would be seen. The capsules of hyacinth and the flower-buds of fuchsia are reproduced in the account.<sup>2</sup>

A NOTABLE CACTUS GARDEN has been established at the University of Arizona. It is the purpose to bring together eventually all the Cactaceæ indigenous to the United States, and already more than a hundred species are represented. The region could not be more favorable for such a purpose, and for the first time there will be large opportunity for studying the group in its natural environment.

MISS ARMA ANNA SMITH, a graduate from Mt. Holyoke in 1891 (A.B.), and afterward Professor of Natural Science for three years in the American College for Girls in Constantinople, was engaged in botanical study at Cornell University last year, and received the degree of M.S. in June. Miss Gertrude Gibbs, a graduate of the University of Minnesota, also a student in botany the past year at Cornell University, received the degree of M.S., and is now Principal of the Jamestown High School, Jamestown, North Dakota.

DR. HENRY TRIMEN died at Peradeniya, Island of Ceylon, October 16th, in his 53d year. During his connection with the botanical department of the British Museum (1872 to 1879) he was the well known editor of the *Journal of Botany*, which commonly bore his name. In 1882 he became the director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Peradeniya, and undertook to publish the *Flora of Ceylon*, three parts of which have appeared. His recent retirement from his official position, on account of ill health, has been noted already in this journal.

AN UNUSUALLY large fasciated stem of meadow thistle (*Cnicus altissimus* Willd.) was sent to the museum of Purdue University a short time ago from northern Indiana. When dry it measured twelve inches broad at the top and three inches at the base. The thickness of this greatly flattened stem was normal, that is, less than one-fourth inch. It was covered evenly with normal leaves, and bore a score or more of immature flower heads sessile along the upper edge. It stood three feet high. The interest in it lies in the size and perfect wedge form, as fasciated stems are usually irregularly developed.

<sup>2</sup>Gardeners' Chronicle III. 20:491. 1896.

THE DAILY PRESS has brought the news of the death of Auguste Trécul, the venerable French botanist. He was born in 1818, and died October 16 in a hospital in Paris, and is reported to have been in a very destitute condition. His name as an anatomist was a more familiar one to botanists of a generation ago than to those of today, his principal papers dealing with the vascular system. During 1848 and 1849 he explored various regions of North America, and many of the cactus species of European gardens were first obtained by him during his travels in Texas and Mexico, as well as the beautiful *Yucca* which bears his name.

BARON FERDINAND VON MUELLER died at Melbourne, Australia, October 9th, in his 72d year. His is the most distinguished name in Australian botany, and his long and zealous study of that isolated flora has been of the greatest service to science. He left Europe in 1847, and never returned to it, but his enormous correspondence and his great collections always kept him in close touch with his foreign associates. His publications are very numerous, and many of them are noteworthy in presenting the most complete accounts of certain notable Australian groups, as *Eucalyptus*, *Acacia*, etc. An interesting biographical sketch will be found in *Gardeners' Chronicle* of October 17.

A VERY COMPLETE historical account of taxonomic nomenclature is presented by Dr. Theodore Gill in his vice-presidential address before the A. A. A. S. at its recent Buffalo meeting. The address is published in *Science* of October 23. In conclusion he seems to think that we must make the best of a too firmly fixed system. "The best thing to do now is to accept the current system, purified as much as possible by judicious and inexorably applied laws. Doubtless in the distant future a less cumbrous and changeable system of notation will be devised, but in the meantime we had best put up with the present, inconvenient though it be." In the same journal for November 6 Mr. J. A. Allen calls attention to the mischievous practice of determining priority by the date of printing, rather than by the date of publication, which is frequently quite a different date.

THE SECOND PART of volume sixth of the *Flora Capensis* has been issued from Kew, and, like the first part, is the work of Mr. J. G. Baker. It contains the continuation of the *Amaryllideæ* and part of the *Liliaceæ*, to the completion of which the whole of the third and concluding part will be devoted. A considerable number of species appear to have been collected but once. Many are still known only from descriptions and figures published in the last century, and are unrepresented in herbaria. It is difficult, however, to believe that they are really extinct. The fact is more probably accounted for by the extremely local limitation of species in South Africa, which is hardly paralleled in this respect by any other flora in the world.—W. T. T. DYER, in *Kew Bulletin*.